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MITFORD & LAUNDITCH R.D.C.



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

ENGINEER and PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1959

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. B. GUILD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Engineer & Public Health Inspector

R. L. BARKER, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

G. DAVIES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

G. Q. KIBBLEWHITE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH FOR 1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The estimated mid-year population of the district was 18,270, an increase of 200 as compared with the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS

278 births, of which 14 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 262 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 15.21, has increased by 0.93 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1958, whereas the England and Wales rate was 16.5. The illegitimate live births accounted for 5% of the total live births.

There were 8 still births during the year, giving a still birth rate of 28 (per 1,000 live and still births). The England and Wales rate was 21.0.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, was 1.16.

The number of deaths, 262, was 57 more than in 1958 and gives a death rate of 14.34, an increase of 3 per 1,000.

The England and Wales rate was 11.6. In the main the increase in deaths was accounted for by the following categories -

(a)	other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	+	16
(b)	vascular lesions of nervous system	+	9
(c)	other heart disease	+	10
(d)	other circulatory disease	+	8
(e)	influenza	+	15

On the other hand there was a decrease of 6 in the category "hypertension with heart disease".

It is interesting to note in contrast that East Derham had its lowest death rate on record this year.

The deaths comparability factor was 0.72.

The number of deaths under 1 year of age was 8, all legitimate, and of these 7 occurred under 1 week of age and 1 under 4 weeks of age.

This gives an infant mortality rate (legitimate) of 28.78. The England and Wales rate was 22.2.

The neo-natal mortality rate was therefore the same as the infant mortality rate. The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week) was 25.2.

The peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week) was 54.

The causes of infant deaths were :-

(a)	Prematurity	1
(b)	Prematurity and twin pregnancy	2
(c)	Neo-natal haemorrhage and prematurity	1
(d)	Bilateral atelectasis and prematurity	1
(e)	Cerebral ischaemia and asphyxia neonatorum	1
(f)	Meningitis due to infection of meningo-myelocoele	1
(g)	Congenital heart disease	1

Infectious diseases were responsible for 33 deaths - influenza 22 and pneumonia 11. The influenza outbreak in the early part of the year, although not severe, exacted a heavy toll from the elderly, particularly in Beech House, Gressenhall.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifications received during the year was 286.

The majority of these were due to measles (222) and there should now be only a few susceptibles left in children of school age.

Food Poisoning

7 cases of food poisoning were notified. Three cases each occurred in two families in Shipdham - one family being affected in August and the other family in September. In both instances duck eggs obtained from two large duck farms several miles apart were suspected as being the source of the *Salmonella typhimurium* infection. As only one member of the household in each case had eaten a duck egg it appeared that this individual had transferred the infection to the other two members. Samples of eggs from one farm and from the duck droppings at the other were examined for *Salmonella* with negative results. In view of the large size of the farms the results of the random sampling were perhaps not surprising.

The seventh case of *Salmonella typhimurium* infection occurred in a young child, a farmer's son. A short time previously there had been several deaths in young calves on the farm due to enteritis. No other members of the household were ill or were positive for *Salmonella* infection on laboratory examination. What connection, if any, there was between the calves' illness and the *Salmonella* infection in the child must be a matter for conjecture. It was an extraordinary coincidence that an exactly similar incident occurred in this same household the previous year.

It is becoming increasingly obvious to me that medical practitioners in a rural area must ever be on the alert as to the possibility of diarrhoea and vomiting having an origin in the livestock on the farm and that fuller use of the Public Health Laboratory Service should be made in the investigation of such cases.

Further, there arise problems in the disposal of carcasses of calves and other animals dying on the farm. A veterinary surgeon has not necessarily been called in: the carcass may be disposed of locally or transported to a knacker's yard and subsequently reach the home in the form of dog meat without any one having any idea as to the cause of death. There are plenty of public health and veterinary problems here. I do not know whether this problem has been investigated at higher levels but it does appear to me to be one which merits more consideration.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

	1959	1958	1957	1956
Scarlet fever	26	9	5	43
Erysipelas	-	1	1	1
Measles	222	31	630	50
Whooping cough	9	3	135	3
Pneumonia	20	9	16	16
Polioomyelitis	-	2	1	1
Dysentery	-	4	16	48
Food poisoning	7	8	2	1
Infectious hepatitis	1	-	2	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	2	1
Meningitis	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	1
Totals	286	67	811	166

Disease	Age Group												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	2	1	1	16	4	1	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	1	6	12	16	15	119	47	5	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	14
Food poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	7	15	18	17	139	52	10	3	3	2	2	15

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 7 cases were added to the register of whom two were inward transfers.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years are:-

1958 - 11

1957 - 14

1956 - 16

The distribution of the 7 cases by age and sex is given in the following table.

Age Period		Pulmonary	
		M.	F.
5	- 15	-	1
16	- 25	-	(a)
26	- 35	-	1
36	- 45	-	1
46	- 55	-	(a)
56	- 65	1	-
66	- 75	1	-
		2	3, 2(a)

(a) denotes an inward transfer.

There was one death from tuberculosis pulmonary and one death from non-pulmonary.

The numbers remaining on the register were :

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.58.	27	26	53	15	17	32	85
31.12.59.	25	28	53	14	16	30	83

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1959 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications			
Pulmonary	Case Rate	Non-pulmonary	Case Rate
104 (5)	0.27 (0.30)	12 (e)	0.03 (0)

The mortality figures for the same period were :

Pulmonary	Case Rate	Non-pulmonary	Case Rate
18 (1)	0.05 (0.06)	5 (1)	0.01 (0.06)

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The slackening of the polio vaccination campaign permitted progress with the scheme for giving vaccination against tuberculosis to school children aged 13 years and above.

(1)	Number skin tested	244
(2)	Number found positive	71
(3)	Number found negative	173
(4)	Number vaccinated	156

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	13	14	27
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	22	32
Coronary disease, angina	20	16	36
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	18	36	54
Other circulatory disease	9	5	14
Influenza	11	11	22
Pneumonia	8	3	11
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	9	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	1	-	1
Total	127	135	262

CANCER OF THE LUNGS

There was an increase in the number of deaths this year to 6, the average for the previous 8 years being 3.5. The ages at death were 42, 52, 59, 60, 75 and 76 - all males.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (estimated mid 1959)	18,270
Rateable Value (1st April 1959)	£ 93,081
Estimated product of a penny rate	£ 372

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths, after correction for outward and inward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
				1959	1958	1959
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	129	135	264			
Illegitimate	4	10	14			
Total	133	145	278			
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				15.21	14.28	16.5
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	5	2	7			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			
Total	5	3	8			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the total live and still births				28	22.7	21

	Males	Females	Total	Mitford & Launditch 1959	1958	England & Wales 1959
<u>DEATHS</u> (all ages)	127	135	262			
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				14.34	11.34	11.6
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)						
Legitimate	5	3	8			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	5	3	8			
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				28.78	19.4	22.2

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Alone

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	1	-	-	-	-	124	16	141
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	1	276	267	544
Total								685

Diphtheria and Whooping cough

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	13
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
					Total			15

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	73	24	9	6	-	-	-	112

The general practice now is to use the triple antigen in infants and young children.

There has been an appreciable demand for protection against tetanus as the following table shows.:

	1	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	1	3	6	7	20	21	31	89
Booster	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
						Total		93

Vaccinations

	Under 1	1-	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	85	5	1	3	5	79
Revaccination	-	-	3	4	9	16
				Total		95

There has been a slight fall this year in the number of infants vaccinated.

POLIO VACCINATION

Towards the end of 1958 the scheme was extended to include the 15 - 25 age group - in 1959 a further extension up to the age of 40 was made. The response in these age groups has been poor and it would need the death of another well known sporting personality to create a demand for vaccination.

Vaccination in the younger age groups proceeded steadily and the next tables show the situation at the end of the year for East Dereham and Mitford and Launditch R.D.C.

The following had received two injections :

Born 1943 - 59.	Born 1933 - 42.	Expectant Mothers	G.P.'s & Families	Hospital Staff	Total
5090	1235	257	12	17	6611

The following had received three injections :

Born 1955 - 59.	Born 1943 - 54.	Born 1933 - 42.	E.M's.	G.P's.	Hospital Staff	Total
891	3330	526	163	7	16	4933

HOUSING

The number of applicants remaining on the housing list at 31st December 1959 was 389.

The number of houses erected during the year was

- (a) By the Council 28
- (b) By private enterprise 25

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

	Number in Register	Inspection- tions	Number of written notices	Occup- iers pros- ecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	11	405	10	-
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	120	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total	65	525	13	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	30	30	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Uneffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	30	30	-	-

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946
Local Health Services under Part 111

Domestic Help Service

47 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 36 cases were assisted in Mitford & Launditch.

Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge. 45 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 2 being certified, 37 voluntary and 4 informal - an implementation of the New Mental Health Act before this actually came into force - 1 temporary and 1 under Section 20 (urgency order).

72 after care visits were made.

Mental Defectives

1 patient was admitted to a Mental Deficiency Hospital. 59 mental defectives were visited and reported on periodically. 7 of these now attend full time at the Occupation Centre at Sprowston, and 6 attend the fortnightly Social Club for adolescents and adult cases commenced during the year and held at the Local Health Office.

Old People's Welfare

There are now 14 old people's clubs in the district, a new one having been started at Hockering. 16 elderly people were admitted to Part 111 accommodation in Old People's homes.

National Assistance Act

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1959

WATER SUPPLIES

Construction

The water schemes at Lyng and Weasenham were completed and brought into operation during the year and Fransham was completed with the exception of the booster station.

Delay has occurred with regard to the booster station, firstly because I queried the siting on private land as at first proposed and I was eventually successful in obtaining permission for it to be positioned on the wide roadside verge; and secondly because the work is to be done by direct labour, which at the present time is fully occupied with connections in the district. There is no hardship being caused by this delay and I have therefore decided that the connection work is more urgent at this time.

Apart from low pressure at the point to be served by the booster station, Fransham is however working satisfactorily and the installation of the iron removal plant has resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of the supply to those houses which were already served by the Council House scheme. Connection work was completed at both Lyng and Fransham and is proceeding at Weasenham. The exceptionally dry summer resulted in some applications being received from properties which had not taken advantage of the free connection scheme when it was originally offered.

The following table shows the position up to the 31st December as far as the percentage of connections made, as against the number of possibles.

Parish	Premises with main available	Applications pending	% connected	% connected + applications
Lt. Dunham	62	-	98%	98%
Hockering	94	4	72%	76%
Rougham	67	-	97%	97%
Whissonsett	141	-	82%	82%
North Elmham	260	-	80%	80%
Mattishall	270	1	77%	77%
Litcham	191	-	79%	79%
Shipdham	340	1	72%	72%
Colkirk	137	-	80%	80%
Mileham	103	1	77%	78%
Swanton Morley	151	1	81%	81%
Scarning	30	1	93%	97%
Beeston	123	-	76%	76%
Lyng	112	17	68%	83%
Fransham	57	12	72%	93%
Weasenham	139	87	25%	87%
Total	2277	125	76%	83%

It will be seen from the statistics section that there was a considerable increase in the gallons consumed, which was partly due to the dry spring and summer and partly no doubt to the fact that the consumers are becoming accustomed to using a tap instead of a bucket.

Statistics

Parish	No. of Connections	Estimated Population	No. Meters	Gallons Pumped
Lt. Dunham	61	196	7	-
Hockering	68	219	4	1,005,828
Rougham	65	209	3	624,266
Whissonsett	116	373	5	1,470,782
North Elmham	209	673	15	3,897,595
Mattishall	207	666	17	4,269,190
Litcham	151	486	8	2,407,160
Shipdham	245	789	12	-
Colkirk	110	354	3	1,384,993
Mileham	80	257	12	1,257,964
Swanton Morley	122	393	15	1,951,493
Scarning	28	90	-	-
Beeston	94	302	13	7,420,200
Lyng	76	244	8	385,868
Fransham	41	132	3	475,714
Weasenham	35	112	-	350,483
Total	1708	5495	125	26,801,536
Total 1958	1500	4830	106	19,430,838

Statistics

Gallons Purchased	Gallons Consumed	Gallons by Meter	Average G.P.H./Day	Average G.P.Day
643,485	643,485	587,000	8.99	1760
-	1,005,828	179,000	12.68	2755
-	624,266	90,000	8.18	1710
-	1,470,782	197,000	11.13	4030
-	3,897,595	779,000	16.14	10700
-	4,269,190	857,000	18.00	11690
-	2,407,160	584,000	13.72	6600
3,613,345	3,613,345	620,000	12.89	9900
-	1,384,993	81,000	10.36	3790
-	1,257,964	516,000	13.74	3450
-	1,951,493	563,000	13.07	5070
302,560	302,560	-	9.70	825
-	7,420,200	725,000	67.77	20330
-	385,868	105,000	12.85	3110
-	475,714	33,000	21.44	2230
-	350,483	-	35.36	2900
4,559,390	31,360,926	5,916,000	17.88	90850
4,277,925	23,708,763	4,326,000	14.73	69682

No further progress was made during the year with regard to the outline schemes for Bintree, Tittleshall and Great Dunham.

Maintenance

The question of the corrosion which was occurring in the base of the North Elmham tank was referred by your Consulting Engineers to the tank manufacturers who in turn consulted the Corrosion Advice Bureau of the British Iron and Steel Research Association. As a result of their investigations a conference was called at their headquarters which I attended together with representatives of the tank manufacturers, the float switch control manufacturers and the paint manufacturers. The matter was fully discussed and several possibilities were explored and the Director of the Corrosion Advice Bureau concluded that the trouble was caused by mill scale on the plates. He recommended a hot enamel treatment as the remedy. The tank manufacturers considered this proposal and suggested that half of the tank be done as a trial and ask that the Council should bear half the cost of the work. In view of the fact that the tank had been in position for about four years this was agreed and the work was carried out. There does not appear to be any sign of the trouble recurring at present.

There were no major breakdowns during the year but there were several minor incidents which Mr. Stevenson corrected promptly and without calling in outside assistance.

General

The small iron removal plant which the Housing Committee instructed me to instal at the Garvestone Housing Site is now working satisfactorily. Further instructions have been given for similar plants at the Hardingham and Foxley Housing Sites but in view of the pressure of work it may be some time before they will be done.

Connections to the Council Houses in the parishes of Weasenham, Fransham and Lyng have not yet been done but it is hoped that these will be attended to during the coming year.

Private Water Supplies

During the year 53 samples were taken as under :-

Wells	...	39	Satisfactory	20
			Unsatisfactory	18
			Suspicious	1
Bores	...	14	Satisfactory	14

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

I carried out survey work on the preparation of the sewerage scheme for the parish of Litcham and presented draft proposals, which were accepted by the Council.

More detailed work in connection with the design of the works and preparation of the scheme is now in hand and it is hoped that this can be presented during the next year.

Constant daily flushing by the staff of the Water Department during the cold weather has prevented damage to the Scarning Sewer.

Ditches at Bawdeswell, Lyng, Mileham, North Elmham and Litcham were cleaned out during the year in addition to the annual maintenance scheme in connection with Lyng, Bawdeswell and Mattishall Burgh.

The Public Health Committee gave instructions for the piping of approximately 120 yards of ditch at Little Fransham subject to a grant from the County Council which has been agreed in principle, and the scheme is in course of preparation.

47 visits were made in connection with ditches.

Drainage

A further 16 existing houses installed W.C.'s, mainly as a result of improvement grants.

137 visits were made in connection with drainage during the year.

Scavenging Scheme

In May it became apparent that a new contract could not be negotiated with Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd., as a large increase was required by the contractors.

The department was therefore instructed to take steps to -

- a) Provide an interim service from the expiration of the existing contract on the 31st May.
- b) To make arrangements for a permanent direct labour service.

Following discussions with various vehicle manufacturers and an inspection of vehicles by the Committee, arrangements were made to purchase four cesspool emptiers with night soil attachments and two refuse collecting vehicles from Shelvoke and Drewry Ltd. Delivery of these vehicles was promised at intervals between June and December. In the interim period whilst the vehicles were awaited, Shelvoke and Drewry Ltd, loaned vehicles to the Council, free of charge, to enable us to maintain the service.

Interviews took place with the contractor's employees who, without exception, transferred to the Council's employment and due to the co-operation of all concerned we were able to change over to direct labour with a minimum of dislocation in the service.

Consideration was given to the provision of the depot and negotiations are in progress with the East Dereham U.D.C. for a site in our own district at Scarning. In the meantime the U.D.C. has kindly made standing space available at their own depot.

During September Mr. W. Feeke intimated that he was proposing to retire and stated that he would like to give up the Council's contract as from the 1st October. The Council thereupon instructed that Litcham should be serviced in the same manner as the rest of the district although this in fact meant a reduced frequency of collection.

For many years Litcham had been receiving a weekly refuse collection and a twice weekly night soil collection and the changeover resulted in some local problems.

Refuse Collection

The fortnightly collection was maintained throughout the year but the dustbin situation throughout the district still remains unsatisfactory. Consideration has been given to improving the refuse pits in use and reducing their number to three. Expenditure for this purpose has been approved by the Public Health Committee and the work will shortly be put in hand.

Mr. Davies has been carrying out the day to day supervision of this service and since the inauguration of the direct labour scheme this has taken a considerable proportion of his time.

In the original proposals submitted to the Council provision was made for a foreman but no action has been taken on this as it is felt the appropriate time for such an appointment would be when the depot comes into operation.

This decision was reached before the difficulty of winter working was fully appreciated and it may be that the Council will have to reconsider this matter as other work of the department has had to suffer with Mr. Davies being so fully occupied in this connection.

Night Soil Collection and Cesspool Emptying

The weekly night soil collection has been carried out throughout the year.

The cesspool emptying service, by which each cesspool is emptied twice free of charge on request, has been continued, but since the inauguration of the direct labour scheme it has been decided that the period during which the two free emptyings are available should be from 1st April to the 31st March instead of from the 1st June to the 31st May. 1538 cesspool servicings were made during the year, compared with 1377 during 1958.

237 visits were made in connection with the Refuse and Night Soil collection services, including the inspection of tips.

I am pleased to report that there has been a considerable improvement in the cesspool emptying service since the inauguration of the direct labour scheme, due mainly to more direct control from this department and more efficient equipment.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council's scheme of offering to undertake rat destruction on farms on a repayment basis of 12/-d per hour has not had very much response. In fact only three farms have been dealt with in this scheme during the year.

The general supervision and control of the rat catchers has been carried out by Mr. Davies.

Your Council employ three full time rat catchers who cover the whole area. A summary of their work is given below:-

Type of property	No. Inspected	Infestation	
		Major	Minor
L.A.	97	-	51
Dwellings	10696	5	2274
Agricultural	1282	3	33
Business Premises	428	-	2
Total	12503	8	2360

Housing & Public Health Acts

No. of complaints investigated	...	27
No. of inspections and re-inspections	...	84
No. of Moveable Dwellings inspected	...	20
Informal requests to carry out work of repair etc.	...	20
Work completed as a result of above	...	17
Statutory Notices served	...	Nil
Work completed	...	Nil
No. houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	...	48
Demolition Orders made	...	39
Closing Orders made	...	2
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	2

Slum Clearance Programme

Total houses scheduled under the programme	...	583
No. dealt with during 1959	...	43
Houses remaining	...	540

During the year action was taken in respect of the Slum Clearance Programme in the villages of Shipdham, Cranworth and Gressenhall. It is regretted that owing to pressure of work in the department, Time and Place Notices have not yet been served in respect of the houses visited by the Committee in Gressenhall but it is hoped that this will be arranged early next year.

13 houses which have been subjects of Demolition Orders were actually demolished during the year and although the Council had to proceed to the extent of obtaining prices for the demolition of two blocks of property the owners eventually did the work themselves.

Improvement Grants

Fresh legislation came into force in 1959 which introduced a new form of Improvement Grant, known as the Standard Grant. Some amendments were also made to the existing scheme henceforth to be known as the Discretionary Grant.

The Standard Grant provides for assistance in the installation of five items to the extent of 50% of the cost or the maximum figure shown (whichever is the smaller amount). The items are a) bath (£25), b) wash-hand basin (£5), c) hot water supply (£75), d) W.C. (£40), and e) food store (£10). A maximum grant is therefore £155. Before grant may be made the house must have all five services; have a hot water supply to a sink; and be fit for human habitation.

Difficulty was experienced in deciding whether the costs of cold water supplies and septic tank drainage should be included, and this has been resolved after consultation with the Ministry.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the provision of a sink does not rank for grant under this scheme, and in my opinion this is an omission which should be remedied.

Standard Grants

Total dwellings for which grant approved	...	11
Total dwellings work completed	...	Nil
Value of grants approved to date	...	£1450

Summary of items proposed				
Bath	Basin	Hot water	W.C.	Food store
9	10	9	11	6

Discretionary Grants

Total dwellings for which grant approved to date	...	178
Total dwellings for which grant approved during 1959	...	20
Total dwellings work completed	...	146
Total dwellings work completed 1959	...	12
Value of grants approved to date	... £	46,008
Value of grants approved during 1959	... £	5,463

Preliminary visits and consultation	(both schemes)	78
Visits to work in progress	(both schemes)	64

Food Premises

No. of food premises in the area	...	190
No. of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955		
(a) Ice Cream	...	56
(b) Sausages etc.	...	10
No. of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954.	...	23

No. of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary ... 34

No. of visits to other food premises ... 42

No educational activities are carried out.

Method of disposal of condemned food - is coloured and collected by hide and condemned meat Contractor. Canned foods pierced and collected by refuse collectors.

No special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been found necessary.

There are no producers in the district under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 - 1952.

Meat Inspection

Messrs. Baker Bros. of Elsing were unable to find a satisfactory site for their slaughterhouse in the Dereham Urban District. An isolated site was selected on their farm which was agreed by all the interested parties and at the end of the year building work had reached an advanced stage.

No. of licensed slaughterhouses ... 7

No. of visits ... 523

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	493	743	1254	Nil
Number inspected	493	686	1223	Nil

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	6	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38	15	84	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	7.7	2.10	6.86	Nil
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	Nil	11	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.02	Nil	0.89	Nil
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Petroleum Acts

1 new licence was issued and 17 inspections were made in connection with existing and proposed installations.

Milk - Special Designations

Dealers licences to use designation T.T.	...	18
Dealers licences to use pasteurised	...	16
Dealers licenses to use sterilised	...	6
Supplementary licences to use designation T.T.	...	4
Supplementary licences to use pasteurised	...	6
Supplementary licences to use sterilised	...	1
Visits to milk retailers	...	17

In all cases where designated milk licences are in force, the milk is purchased in bottle from wholesale dairies outside the district.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1948

525 visits were made of Factories, and details of these and action taken in respect of these regulations are included at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. BARKER,

Engineer & Public Health Inspector.

